

Roger Brooke Taney to Andrew Jackson, March 17, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

ROGER B. TANEY TO JACKSON.

Private

Annapolis, March 17, 1836.

My Dear sir, I received yesterday letters from many of my friends informing me that my nomination as Chief-Justice of the U. States had been confirmed by the Senate. I feel that the first letter I write after the receipt of this intelligence should be addressed to you, to express the deep sense I shall ever retain of the constant kindness with which you have supported me, until you have finally placed me in the high station which I now fill, and which is the only one under the Government that I ever wished to attain. There are indeed circumstances connected with my appointment, which render it even more gratifying than it would have been in ordinary times. In the first place I owe this honor to you to whom I had rather owe it than to any other man in the world, and I esteem it the higher because it is a token of your confidence in me. In the second place I have been confirmed by the strength of my own friends, and go into the office not by the leave, but in spite of the opposition of the men who have so long and so perseveringly sought to destroy me, and I am glad to feel that I do not owe my confirmation to any forbearance on their part. And it is also not a little pleasant to find that Mr. Kendall with whom I have passed through so many trying scenes and who shared with me so largely the vindictive persecutions of the panic war, was in the same session of the Senate in which I was confirmed and in the same hour, placed firmly in the high station to which you have called him, and which he is so entirely worthy to fill, and that he is no longer in the power of those who have

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sought and still desire to make him one of the victims of their vengeance. And it is a still further gratification, to see, that if providence spares our lives, it will be the lot of one of the rejected of the panic Senate, as the highest judicial officer of the country to administer in your presence and in the view of the whole nation, the oath of office to another rejected of the same Senate, when he enters into the first office in the world, and to which it is now obvious that an enlightened and virtuous people are determined to elect him.¹ The Spectacle will be a lesson; which neither the people nor politicians should ever forget.

¹ The reference is to the rejection of Van Buren as minister to England in 1831.

I hope to be able to visit Washington before long to pay my respects to you in person
and am D'r sir with the highest respect and regard